

FIRST ROUND

Bournemouth

PRESS SUPPLEMENT



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MICHAEL KNOX talks to both managers

borne out by the facts. During the mid-sixties Keen played 285 consecutive matches (nearly five seasons). It is a club record that still stands.

Triumph

Keen says modestly, "he will probably say there was a stage when he could have dropped me."

This is a comment that Stock firmly rejects.

"It never crossed my mind to drop him even if he was playing badly — and that was very rare. The team wouldn't have been the same without him."

Their greatest triumph of course, came in 1966-67 when Q.P.R., then a Third Division club, shocked the sporting world by winning the Football League Cup in the first Wembley final.

However, this result seemed most unlikely at half time when they were trailing West Bromwich Albion 0-2. Both remember the half-time dressing room scene as though it were yesterday.

According to Keen, the manager walked quietly into

the room and said, "Look, we've had a fair amount of the game. All we've got to do now is to sort ourselves out and show how well we can play. People have been 2-0 down before and won. Let's go out and have a go. It's up to you, isn't it?"

Notice how Stock finishes so many of his statements with a question. Keen remarked, "he was leaving the ball in our court and we went out and won 3-2. Thanks to him."

But Stock, in turn praised his skipper for the way he led that second half come-back. "That required character and the players had it. It also needed some inspirational leadership — and Mike Keen was just the man for the task," he said.

Impossible

"Rangers had a young side in that 1967 final, including several players under 21. They needed someone to spur them to success. Mike was the man who achieved the impossible."

With Stock and Keen in command, Rangers eventually achieved First Division

status, but it was not long before Stock was on his way to Luton, being succeeded at Loftus Road by Tommy Docherty who lasted 28 days.

But Stock lacked a leader at Luton and he soon managed to renew his partnership with Keen at Kenilworth Road. The club gained promotion before they parted ways in 1972 after three years.

Stock continued his triumphant managerial career by taking Fulham to the 1975 F. A. Cup final against West Ham.

Fair but firm

Keen sums up Stock — "I found him very fair but firm. If you stepped out of line, he would take you aside and speak to you strongly."

"He knows his football but it was before the era of a coach. His greatest strength was judging a player and knowing how to get the best out of him. He treated people right and I'm sure I learned something from that."

Stock sums up Keen in his succinct style — "He was a fine fellow, a splendid captain and a great leader."



Mike Keen's greatest victory Football League Cup 3-2 over West Bromwich Albion